

## Mahoney Speaks in Support of Fiscally Responsible Budget Resolution

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Statement by Representative Tim Mahoney

In Support of H.Con.Res. 99, the Budget Resolution

March 28, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise tonight on behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District in support of the House Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008.

I decided to run for Congress 18 months ago because I wanted to protect my daughter Bailey's American Dream. I was appalled by how the Republican leadership had turned a budget surplus into a \$3 trillion deficit. I was appalled by out of control earmarks that put political payoffs over good government.

Tonight my daughter's legacy of this mismanagement is a "Debt Tax of \$29,000.

I am proud to stand here tonight with my fellow Blue Dogs in support of a fiscally responsible budget that reflects the priorities and values of the American people.

I am proud that the Democratic Party is taking yet another step in bringing fiscal responsibility back to our nation.

Our first step happened within hours of my swearing in when we began to clean up the Republican's culture of corruption by passing Earmark Reform.

Next we passed the Pay as You Go - "PAYGO" rule that forces this Congress to live within its means -- just as American families do.

I am proud that this budget follows the PAYGO rule as it demonstrates that Democratic commitment to "Walk the Walk" of fiscal responsibility and not just "Talk the Talk".

Instead of a fiscal policy that gives tax breaks today and funding them by going into debt and mortgaging our children's future.

This budget begins the process of bringing spending under control and lays the foundation to return to a budget surplus so that we can legitimately lower taxes.

While the President's budget imposes nearly \$81 billion in new taxes over the next five years through user fees for veterans, seniors, and other taxpayers, our budget reduces taxes on middle-income families.

While the President's budget increases taxes by more than \$300 billion by cutting employer provided healthcare, our budget lowers taxes by extending the child tax credit, the marriage penalty tax relief, the ten percent individual income tax bracket, the research and development tax credit and the deduction for state and local sales tax - critical to my constituents in Florida.

And while the President's Budget increases the deficit by \$1.4 trillion over the next 10 years, our budget would create a budget surplus within 5 years.

This Budget Resolution provides for a strong national defense, giving the President what he requested while increasing homeland security funding for port security and our first responders.

It takes care of those who have served our country by increasing funding for veterans service programs by a record \$6.6 billion.

It stands up for Florida's 1.8 million small business owners by rejecting the President's plan to slash the Small Business Administration's budget by 26 percent.

Mr. Chairman, this budget puts children and families first by investing in health care and education. It helps 733,000 of Florida's most vulnerable children who do not have health insurance by increasing funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

And it invests in our children and our economy's future by honoring the President's broken promises by funding No Child Left Behind, special education, and Head Start.

This Budget Resolution funds our priorities and reflects the priorities of our districts, states and our nation. It lowers taxes - not raised taxes. Mr Speaker I encourage my colleagues to support the House Budget Resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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